

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for enhancing a chewing gum experience comprising:

a gum holding ring having an upstanding member for receiving and holding a piece of chewed gum, the gum holding ring having a base section that defines a first locating member and a second locating member, wherein the ring is an integral, unitary structure that includes the upstanding member and the base section;

a first container body releasably and slidably coupled to a first section of the gum holding ring, wherein a bottom edge of the first container body seats against the first locating member which limits vertical movement of the first container body, the first container body defining a first compartment;

a second container body releasably and slidably coupled to a second section of the gum holding ring, wherein an upper edge of the second container body seats against the second locating member which limits vertical movement of the second container body towards the first container body, the second container body defining a second compartment for storing candy, and

wherein the gum holding ring has openings formed therethrough to permit communication between the first and second compartments and the member extends into the first compartment such that the held piece of chewed gum is disposed in the first compartment, and upon manipulation of the apparatus, the candy in the second compartment travels through the openings and into contact with the chewed gum resulting in the chewed gum being coated with the candy that serves to enhance the flavor of the chewed gum.

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first container body is a substantially hollow member that has a closed first end and an open second end that defines the bottom edge and the second container body is a substantially hollow members that has an open first end that defines the upper edge and a closed second end.

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, wherein ~~each of the first container body and the second container body is a substantially annular member~~ the first locating member is a first shoulder formed in the gum holding ring and the second locating member is a second shoulder formed in the gum holding ring.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the ~~gum holding ring includes a base section with the~~ upstanding member ~~being~~ is selectively attached to the base section by a plurality of connecting members, one opening being formed between two adjacent connecting members, wherein both the first and second locating members are formed in the base section and the connecting members are part of the integral, unitary structure.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the upstanding member comprises a post having a distal end and a proximal end that is integrally attached to the connecting members, the post having a surface altering features near the distal end for aiding in gripping and retaining the chewed piece of gum.









